WORKS IN PROGRESS.

At Bridlington, a general restoration has been determined upon of those parts of the parish church which have suffered, either from the lapse of time, or through the injudicious mode in which occasional repairs have been managed; with this view, a survey was made a few months since by Mr. Edmund Sharpe. This church is one of the most interesting buildings, of the thirteenth century, in the kingdom; it is the Priory Church, and valuable to all who feel an interest in the history of the progress of church architecture—as a building supplying the loss that the destruction of St. Mary's, at York, would have otherwise occasioned, and as affording an instance of transition from early English to decorated work of unusual character. The west end and south side are in the most dilapidated condition, and it is proposed that their restoration should be proceeded with in the first instance, particularly the west end, and the opening out of the great west window.

At Oxford, some delay has arisen in the commencement of the new Grammar School at Magdalen College, from a doubt as to the best method of carrying out the full intentions of the founder. The plans of Mr. Derrick, the successful competitor, were exhibited at a late meeting of the Oxford Society for the Promotion of the Study of Gothic Architecture. The building will be in the style of the fifteenth century, harmonising with the college, and Pugin's new Gothic entrance gateway. Many of the admirers of this splendid college will be pleased to hear that it is in contemplation to replace the present chapel windows by others in stained glass, which will add greatly to the richness of the already fine effect of the chapel.

The Queen Dowager has recently subscribed the sum of 20*l.* towards the building fund of the intended district church at Malvern Link, Worcestershire.

The Government has purchased the lands of Broomhill, to the north of the city of Glasgow, for the erection of cavalry and infantry barracks. The price paid for the property is said to amount to nearly 30,000*l.*

The new terrace-pier at Gravesend, which is constructed entirely of iron, forms an important feature in the increasing improvements in Gravesend and Milton; the entrance is in a direct line with Harmer-street. It was opened for the first time on Easter Monday.

The breaking-up of the weather has placed the operations for the commencement of the Victoria Park in full activity, and a great many hands have been put on to commence digging for the formation of the plantations. A new and straight line of road, which will nearly reach the park, has been constructed from Grove-street, Hackney, to Old Ford, and the entrance-road across Bonner's-fields has been formed, the old erection of Bonner's Hall having been pulled down. From here the entrance to the park will be by a handsome iron suspension-bridge across the Regent's Canal.

There is every prospect of the old Tower ditch being added to the list of public walks at the east end of the town during the summer, and considerable activity is being displayed in gravelling it, a solid foundation having been laid, and the drainage made perfect. It will not be attempted to form a plantation, for which the nature of the sub-soil quite unfits it, and the vegetation will be confined to a few flower-beds. The foundations for the new barracks in the interior have made but little progress, although, in addition to the ordinary labourers, 100 soldiers are daily employed on the works, for which they receive an extra payment of 10d. per day.

At Scarborough, a large number of workmen are being employed in digging and laying out the foundations for the building of the railway station, which, agreeable to the contract, is to be completed by the 25th of next month.

On Tuesday, March 25th, the foundation-stone of a new Catholic church was laid at Crosby, near Liverpool, by the Rev. Doctor Brown; Messrs. Weightman and Hadfield, of Sheffield, are the architects; and Mr. B. Hollins, of the same place, is the builder. The same architects and builder are employed in the erection of the monster Catholic church at Manchester. Mr. Hollins is likewise erecting a new Protestant church at Manchester; Mr. Derick, of Oxford, is the architect.

Very extensive alterations and improvements are in progress at Poltimore-house, the seat of Lord Poltimore, in Devonshire. His lordship returned to this country the week before last, from Florence, to inspect the progress already made, and to give instructions respecting his newly-purchased estates in the same county. Considerable improvements are to be made on this property forthwith.

It is stated that, for internal decoration and embellishment, the Earl of Pembroke's mansion, on Carlton-terrace, will excel in splendour and taste any town residence of our aristocracy. Notwithstanding the length of time it has been in the occupation of the various artists and operatives, it will not be completed before the spring of next year.

Mr. George Baker, of London, who has taken the contract for re-forming and building additional slips and enlarging Chatham Yard, at a cost of 102,000*l.* (45,000*l.* of which sum is to be expended in the course of this year), commenced the undertaking on the 13th ult., by driving a number of piles with steam-engines. Workmen have commenced forming the ground on the opposite shore of Chatham Dockyard, and also clearing the mud in the harbour. The cost is estimated at about 3,000*l.*

Messrs. Brassey, Mackenzie, and Stephenson are said to be the contractors for the Caledonian, Scottish Central, and Midland Junction lines.

ROYAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS.

At an ordinary meeting of the institute held on Monday, the 31st ultimo, Mr. J. B. Papworth in the chair, Mr. John Burrell was elected fellow, and Mr. Alan Bailey, and Mr. G. S. Clarke, associates.

Mr. Donaldson presented from Mr. W. Hamilton, F.R.S., part of a wooden pin, which formerly held together, as a dowell, the *frusta* of one of the columns of an Athenian temple. It was at first said to be from the Parthenon, but Mr. Geering, who had been written to on the subject, said there were no wooden pins in this latter building, and that it was probably from the Propylæum. A letter was read from Monr. L. Serrure, of Antwerp, announcing the death of his father, who was a corresponding member, and offering his services to such members of the institute as might visit Antwerp. The late M. Serrure is best known in this country by a drawing of the Antwerp Spire on a very large scale, which is engraved.

Mr. Foxhall, the excellent district surveyor of St. George's, Hanover-square, read a communication from Mr. Thomas Cubitt, illustrated by a model, descriptive of the chimney recently erected on Mr. Cubitt's premises at Thames Bank, and some observations on the expansion of the brickwork by heat. A description of the chimney will be found in page 62 of our present volume. The paper led to an interesting conversation. Mr. Godwin reminded the meeting that pure clay, the staple of bricks, was understood to be the exception to the general rule that heat expands all bodies, and was contracted by heat, so that he was much puzzled to find this shaft expanded when the fire was in operation, ¼ths of an inch.

Mr. Hosking and Mr. Donaldson considered that when clay was made brick its properties were changed, and that it became amenable to the general law. Mr. Hosking remarked that the stone coping of Waterloo-bridge was expanded and contracted by change of temperature so considerably, as constantly to require pointing. Relative to brickwork, Mr. Scoles said, coke-ovens expanded considerably by heat.

Mr. Edward L'Anson, jun., then read a paper "On the Architecture of the Renaissance, in France," in the course of which he described at considerable length the Chateau of Fontainbleau, that "*rendezvous* of palaces," as it has been termed, and traced the progress of the style from the commencement to the end.

Stone Altar Case.—The costs in the case have been taxed at 100*l.* 11s. 10d. in the Arches Court.

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.

April 1st, 1845.—Sir John Rennie, president, in the chair.

The paper read was by Mr. A. A. Croll, Assoc. Inst. C.E., "On the construction and use of Gas Meters." It first noticed the necessity for a means of accurately measuring the consumption of gas, in order that the honest consumer might not be obliged to pay for the frauds of the dishonest, as was actually the case at present, for the gas companies were obliged to charge such a price for their produce as should cover all contingencies. Then after relating many flagrant instances of fraude on the gas companies and the methods by which they were practised, the author attributed the loss of 30 per cent. of the gas produced, which was not accounted for in the consumption, rather to the fraudulent consumption than to the leakage, either from bad joints or through the pores of the iron pipes, as had been sought to be established in a former discussion. The author's own practical observations induced him to limit the amount of leakage to under 5 per cent. If from the 2,700,000 cubic feet of gas which was distributed daily from the works of the Chartered Gas Company alone, there was a leakage of 30 per cent., 810,000 cubic feet of carburetted hydrogen gas would be let free daily in a comparatively limited district of the streets of London, which would render the atmosphere unbearable. This calculation was exclusive of the nine other large companies whose pipes pervaded the other districts. The paper also contended that the theory of the decomposition of the gas in the earth was inadmissible, as in that case the hydrogen would be converted into water, and the carbon, which would amount to nearly 3,000 tons annually, would be deposited in the soil.

The author then described the water-meter, as invented by Clegg and improved by Crossley, shewing its defects and liability to be tampered with in dishonest hands, and the facility with which it could be made subservient to fraud. He then shewed the various obsolete meters of the dry-meter company, and of Sullivan, and then explained the action of Defrie's three-chambered meter, which has obtained such extensive employment, a good specimen of which, working very steadily, was on the table before the meeting. The paper closed with a description and illustration of Croll and Richards' dry-meter, which, in the opinion of the author, possessed superior qualities, being more accurate in its measurement, on account of the chambers opening by the direct action of the discs, there being no action upon the diaphragm, and each chamber being completely filled and emptied at each interval.

In the discussion, these merits were contended for by the advocates of Croll and Richards' meters; while the partisans of Defrie's meters argued that his possessed every requisite quality, and that they had been in use for upwards of seven years with increasing reputation. It was admitted that the use of the leather in both meters was objectionable, but hitherto no better material had been discovered, and the attention of the makers had chiefly been directed towards diminishing the extent of leather exposed to the action of the gas; that either of them were preferable to the water-meter in its present state, and it was desirable both for the consumer and the gas-maker that accurate meters should be used, to prevent the present flagrant system of fraudulent measurement.

SONNET ON STONE HENGE.

I stood beside the blue Tyrrhenian sea,
And saw three wondrous monuments uprear
Their column'd aisles 'mid desolation drear,
For some forgotten cult's strange ministry—
Type of man's wants and God's high majesty.
Years pass'd. And now, more wondrous far, appear
The mighty unhewn stones that circle here
On the lone down 'mid countless tumuli.
Whence came these stones? What unknown power has riven
And mov'd and rais'd them? Was it love or dread
Of God they testify? Reply, ye dead!
They do: and still the same response is given:
For ages have Stone Henge and Pæstum said,
"Man's noblest works are consecrate to heaven."

Dolmen's Magazine.

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